Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as currently pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit which inputs image information including first image information to be printed on a recording medium and second image information to be stored in a storage device which is attached to the recording medium;

a printer which prints an image on the recording medium to which the storage device is attached, wherein the image is based on the first image information;

a writing unit which writes the second image information to the storage device attached to the recording medium;

a controller which controls said printer to print the image based on the first image information on the recording medium, and controls said writing unit to write the second image information and authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels to the storage device ~~along with authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels~~, wherein a printable range of the second image information ~~that is printable~~ differs at each level;

a reading unit which reads the second image information and the authentication information stored in the storage device attached to the recording medium; and

a user authentication information input unit which inputs user authentication information,

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wherein said controller determines a range of the second image information ~~to be printed~~ <u>which is printable in accordance with the user authentication information</u> <u>input by said user authentication information input unit,</u> based on the authentication information ~~stored in the storage device~~ <u>read by said reading unit</u> and the user authentication information input by said <u>user</u> authentication information input unit, and controls said printer to print an image based on the determined range of the second image information <u>read by said reading unit</u>.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented)   An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a display unit which displays an image based on the second image information stored in the storage medium.

4. (Previously Presented)   An image processing apparatus according to Claim 3, further comprising an instruction unit which instructs said printer to perform printing based on the image displayed by said display unit.

5. to 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting image information including a first image

information to be printed on a recording medium and a second image information to be stored in a storage device which is attached to the recording medium;

a first printing step of printing an image based on the first image information input in said input step on the recording medium to which the storage device is attached;

a writing step of writing the second image information ~~and authentication~~ information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels to the storage device ~~along with authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels~~, wherein a printable range of ~~the~~ second image information ~~that is printable~~ differs at each level; [[and]]

a reading step of reading the second image information and the authentication information stored in the storage device attached to the recording medium;

a user authentication information input step of inputting user authentication information;

a determining step of determining a range of the second image information ~~to be printed~~ which is printable in accordance with the user authentication information input in said user authentication information input step, based on the authentication information ~~stored in the storage device~~ read in said reading step and the user authentication information input in said user authentication information input step; and

a second printing step of printing an image based on the determined range of the second image information read in said reading step.

8. (Cancelled).

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9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium <u>retrievably</u> storing a computer-executable program, said program comprising:

an input step of inputting image information including a first image information to be printed on a recording medium and a second image information to be stored in a storage device which is attached to the recording medium;

a first printing step of printing an image based on the first image information input in said input step on the recording medium to which the storage device is attached;

a writing step of writing the second image information <u>and authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels</u> to the storage device ~~along with authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels~~, wherein a <u>printable</u> range of <u>the</u> second image information ~~that is printable~~ differs at each level; and

a reading step of reading the second image information <u>and the authentication information</u> stored in the storage device attached to the recording medium;

a user authentication information input step of inputting user authentication information;

a determining step of determining a range of the second image information ~~to be printed~~ <u>which is printable in accordance with the user authentication information input in said user authentication information input step,</u> based on the authentication information ~~stored in the storage device~~ <u>read in said reading step</u> and the user authentication information input in said <u>user</u> authentication information input step; and

a second printing step of printing an image based on the determined range of the second image information <u>read in said reading step</u>.

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10.   (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a printer which prints an image ~~based on image information~~;

a reading unit which reads [[the]] image information <u>and authentication information</u>, wherein the image information <u>and the authentication information are</u> [[is]] stored in a storage device attached to a recording medium, wherein th~~e storage device stores the image information and~~ authentication information ~~corresponding~~ <u>corresponds</u> to each of a plurality of levels, wherein a <u>printable</u> range of <u>the</u> image information ~~that is printable~~ differs at each level;

a user authentication information input unit which inputs user authentication information;

[[an]] <u>a</u> controller which determines a range of the image information ~~to be printed~~ <u>which is printable in accordance with the user authentication information input by said user authentication information input unit,</u> based on the authentication information ~~stored in the storage device~~ <u>read by said reading unit</u> and the user authentication information input by said <u>user</u> authentication information input unit, and controls said printer to print an image based on the determined range of the image information <u>read by said reading unit</u>.

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